

MINUTES

OF THE

THIRTEENTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

CENTRAL

Liberty Baptist Association,

HELD WITH THE

Liberty Church, Tuscaloosa, Co., Ala.

October 1st, 2nd and 3rd, 1897.

The next Session will meet with the South Sandy Church on
Thursday before the 1st Sabbath in October, 1898.

J. H. DEWEESE, Clerk,
Hagler, Alabama.

F. M. HOBSON, Moderator,
Hagler, Alabama.

W. Z. JONES, PRINTER, TUSKALOOSA, ALA.



MINUTES.

The ministers and delegates composing the Central Liberty Association, together with a large concourse of brethren and friends, met with the Liberty Church, Tuscaloosa County, Ala., on Friday before the First Sabbath in October, 1897. The Introductory Sermon was preached by Rev. J. R. Wiggins from the 37th Psalm and 3rd verse, "Trust in the Lord and do good, so shalt thou dwell in the land; and verily thou shalt be fed." After which an intermission was given to partake of dinner, which was prepared and at the church. Then the delegates re-assembled in the house, the former Moderator took his seat, called for order and declared the body partially organized and ready for business. The letters from the churches were read by J. H. Deweese and J. M. Greathouse, and the names of delegates enrolled as follows:

HAYSOP.—†Rev. W. G. Hubbard, S. C. Hubbard, H. Murphy, J. B. Robinson, J. W. Hubbard.

LIBERTY.—Rev. F. M. Hobson, J. H. Deweese, C. T. Ragland.

MULBERRY.—Rev. A. D. Fikes, †Harvey Halmon, †B. A. Caddell, †W. B. Caddell.

PLEASANT HILL.—†F. M. Johnson, †C. W. Johnson, †L. A. Hester.

PINE FLAT.—C. W. Arnold, †B. C. Latner, †S. F. Smelly.

SPRING HILL.—J. M. Fondren, J. M. Barnett, Wm. Averett, J. W. Lake.

SOUTH SANDY.—S. P. Sumner, G. B. Holiday, W. J. Dockery, †G. B. Dockery

UNION.—Rev. J. R. Wiggins, J. M. Greathouse, J. B. Keeton, J. R. Doss, †R. N. Greathouse.

HOPEWELL.—J. M. Gadie, Wm. Tingle, †I. D. Gadie.

SHADY GROVE.—Richard Mathews, Jesse Mathews, Joab Shuttlesworth.

On motion, the vacancies of delegates were filled by the brethren present: South Sandy, J. L. Rowe, Rev. T. B. Sumner; Mulberry, A. J. Mayfield, W. V. Mayfield.

On motion, the regular order of business was suspended, and the door was opened to receive newly constituted churches, whereupon Shady Grove Church, through her delegates Richard Mathews, Jesse Mathews and Joab Shuttlesworth, presented a petitionary letter de-

siring to become a member of our body, and was unanimously received by the Moderator extending the right hand of fellowship to her delegates.

Then went into the election of a Moderator and Clerk to serve during the session, which resulted in the choice of Rev. F. M. Hobson for Moderator and J. W. Deweese for Clerk.

The Constitution, Abstract of Principles and Rules of Decorum were read.

The Moderator appointed the following committees: On Arrangement of Business, J. R. Wiggins, A. D. Fikes, T. B. Sumner, with the Moderator and Clerk. On Finance, Wm. Tingle, A. J. Mayfield and C. T. Ragland. On Devotion, Hardy Murphy, J. L. Rowe, R. E. Howard, with the Deacons of Liberty Church.

The Devotional Committee announced that prayer services be held to-morrow morning at 9 o'clock, conducted by brother A. J. Mayfield; preaching at 11 o'clock by Rev. T. B. Sumner.

On motion, adjourned until 9 o'clock to-morrow morning.

SATURDAY MORNING.

Met pursuant to adjournment. After prayer services a short recess was given. Then the delegates assembled in the house, the Moderator called the body to order, and prayer was offered by Bro. Daniel Lewis.

The Committee on Arrangement reported that they recommend that this session transact business upon the same plan that it did at its last session.

Opened the door for Correspondence, and Bro. Daniel Lewis was received from the Harmony Association and Rev. W. A. Hobson from the Birmingham Association. Returned Correspondence: To the Harmony Association, S. C. Hubbard and Barney Thompson; to Birmingham, Rev. F. M. Hobson and Rev. J. R. Wiggins; to Tuscaloosa, J. M. Gadie and Wm. Tingle; to Mulberry, Rev. A. D. Fikes and F. M. Hobson.

Called the roll and marked absentees. (See table. Absentees marked thus †.)

On motion, adjourned one hour and a half to hear preaching and to partake of dinner. At the expiration of the time given, the delegates re-assembled in the house. The Moderator in the chair, the body resumed business.

J. H. Dewees made a verbal report on Missions, and his report stated that if we had done anything in the Association for Missions he had not been able to find it out; therefore, having done nothing he had nothing to report.

After some appropriate remarks made by the brethren present, Bro. A. J. Mayfield offered the following preamble and resolutions:

WHEREAS, we believe that it is the spirit and teaching of the Scriptures that believers should earnestly and prayerfully work for the salvation of the lost, and whereas we are a Missionary Association in name, therefore be it

RESOLVED 1st, That it is the sense of the Central Liberty Association that the churches composing the same should make offering to the cause of Missions.

RESOLVED 2nd, That we renew the request made by this body at its last session, the pastors to preach on missions and to take collections for the same, and the funds so raised be sent to the Secretary of our State Board of Missions, Rev. W. C. Bledsoe, Montgomery, Ala. On motion, the above preamble and resolutions were received and adopted.

Report of Committee on Education.—In this age especially it is necessary that we educate our children that they may have an equal chance in the race of life. We should educate the head and heart of our children that they may have that balance and development of their three-fold nature which is required to make a perfect man or woman. It is our duty to educate, because our Creator has commanded us to teach His commandments and laws to our children. See Deut. 6:7-9, 11:18-21 inclusive. True, it was spoken directly to the Jews, but if it is our duty to keep the commandments and laws

of God, surely it is just as imperative to educate, and we would add that the means and opportunities of education are so numerous, and some of them so cheap, that there is now no cause for a young man or young woman with determination to go without at least a practical education. Schools of all grades all over our land, good books and papers upon all subjects of importance, and with schools treating almost all subjects by mail at a nominal cost, there never was a time when it was so easy to get an education.

L. A. HESTER.

On motion, report received and adopted.

The Devotional Committee reported that Rev. W. A. Hobson preach at 11 o'clock Sabbath morning. Owing to lateness of the hour the body could not get through with the business before it; on motion, therefore, adjourned until 9 o'clock to-morrow morning.

SABBATH MORNING.

Met at the appointed hour. Joined in singing and prayer by J. C. Champion. The Moderator in the chair, proceeded to business.

The report on Sabbath Schools was read and adopted. (See Appendix A.)

The Committee on Temperance made a verbal report, which was received and adopted, and was followed by several speeches.

On motion, the regular order of business was suspended and the door opened for general business.

On motion, the Moderator appointed the following brethren to represent us in the State Convention, which is to meet at East Lake on the 12th of November, 1897: J. R. Wiggins, J. H. Deweese, A. D. Fikes, T. B. Sumner. The Moderator was added to the representation.

On motion, it was agreed that whatever amount of funds is left in the Treasurer's hands be sent to the State Mission Board.

The Finance Committee reported \$15 00 received from the churches.

On motion, ordered the Clerk to have 275 Minutes printed, and that he retain \$5 00 for his services, and that he act as Treasurer for the ensuing year.

On motion, resolved, that the Central Liberty Association under the existing circumstances cannot recognize Rev. R. A. Massey as a Gospel preacher.

Report of Committee on Documents—Shady Grove Church has been constituted. Bro. T. B. Sumner has been ordained to the ministry. Hopewell Church solicits aid from this Association in building a new house for worship. We suggest that the next session of this body convene with the South Sandy Church.

S. P. SUMNER, Chairman.

Report received and committee discharged.

The next Annual District Meeting of this Association will meet with the Springhill Church, Hale County, Ala., on Friday before the 2nd Sabbath in September, 1898; Rev. F. M. Hobson to preach the Commencement Sermon, T. B. Sumner, alternate. Subject for discussion: "What ought we to do with a member that refuses to pay his debts." Opened by T. B. Sumner.

On motion, the time of this body's meeting was changed from Friday back to Thursday.

The next session of this body will convene with the South Sandy Church on Thursday, before the 1st Sabbath in October, 1898, about 16 miles south of Tuscaloosa, on the Marion road; Rev. T. B. Sumner to preach the Introductory Sermon; Rev. J. R. Wiggins, alternate

On motion, resolved, that this Association tender its heartfelt thanks to the brethren and sisters of Liberty Church and to the vicinity for the abundant hospitality extended to us during our stay among them.

On motion, agreed not to have the minutes read, but instructed the Clerk to revise and have them printed.

The Association having finished the business before it, adjourned to meet at the time and place before stated. It was agreed that the body assemble in the grove near by, a place previously prepared for the occasion, and hear a sermon preached by Rev. W. A. Hobson and at the close of the services extend to each other the parting

hand. Bro. Hobson preached a good sermon, and it was appropriate. His subject was "Hearing and Doing."

At the close of the sermon a collection was taken, and the result was as follows:

For Foreign Missions,	:	:	:	:	\$3 00
For Home Missions,	:	:	:	:	3 00
For State Missions	:	:	:	:	3 00
For Orphanage,	:	:	:	:	5 30
To aid the brethren of Hopewell Church,	:	:	:	:	3 10
					—\$17 40

An appropriate hymn was sung while the parting hand was being given with many friendly words of admonition. Nearly all eyes were bathed in tears, and surely the Lord was with this people.

J. H. DEWEESE, Clerk.

F. M. HOBSON, Moderator.

APPENDIX A.

Report on Sabbath Schools.—Brethren, the subject of Sabbath Schools has become a great question before the Christian world, and we desire that our churches and pastors become more interested in the work of the Sabbath Schools for the advancement of the growing question. Many speeches have been made in our Association on the subject of Sabbath Schools, and yet we are sorry to say that we see so much lethargy manifested among our brethren in the cause and the improving the minds of our children and the youths of our country on the all-important truths of the Scriptures. Brethren, if the head of families that are members of the church do not manifest but little or no interest in the advancement of the Sabbath School, need we to look or expect the children to do so; rarely the case is bound to be the answer. But if they feel the weighty responsibility that rests upon them of training the offspring that God has given them in the right and proper way, they will all go joyfully together to the Sabbath School, and the question need not be asked how is that school progressing, for nine times out of ten it will be moving on pleasantly and agreeably.

J. H. DEWEESE.

APPENDIX B.

Committees to report at the meeting of next session.—On Sabbath Schools, J. H. Deweese; On Temperance, S. P. Sumner; On Missions, A. J. Mayfield; On Education, T. B. Sumner.

Received of J. H. Deweese \$8.00 for printing 275 copies of these Minutes.

W. Z. JONES.

STATISTICAL TABLE.

[illegible]



